

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /080 W
----- 081324

R 031609Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1070

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE ACCUSED OF USING POSITION FOR GAIN

1. EL DIA OF SEPTEMBER 1 CARRIES A STORY THAT PURPORTS TO BE AN ARTICLE PRINTED IN LA PRENSA OF MANAGUA ON AUGUST 31.

THE MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

(A) QUOTES "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT GENERAL LOPEZ IS ATTEMPTING TO GAIN CONTROL OF BOTH SAHSA AND TAN;

(B) STATES THAT LOPEZ CONTROLS 62 PERCENT OF SAHSA'S SHARES AND THAT TAN OWNS THE REMAINING 38 PERCENT;

(C) EMPHASIZES THAT LOPEZ OBTAINED CONTROL OF SAHSA ON BAIS OF COLLABORATION OF HIGH HONDURAN OFFICERS AS STOCK-HOLDERS;

(D) STATES THAT LOPEZ SIGNED A CONTRACT TO BUY 40 PERCENT OF THESHARES OF TAN AIRLINE FROM BILL SPOHRER;

(E) REMARKS THAT LOPEZ HAS OBTAINED THE BACKING OF A NORTH AMERICAN BANK TO LOAN THE \$2 1/2 MILLION TO PURCHASE THE 40 PERCENT IF THE LOAN IS GUARANTEED BY THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT;

(F) STATES THAT LOPEZ HAD A PRIVATE MEETING RECENTLY WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR; AND
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(G) QUOTES "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN TEGUCIGALPA" AS SAYING THAT

MELGAR IS ON DANGEROUS GROUND IN ENDORSING A LOAN FROM LOPEZ WHICH CAN ONLY BE EXPLAINED BY "THE MARKED INFLUENCE THAT LOPEZ HAS OVER MELGAR."

2. MELGAR ANSWERED THE STORY IN A PRESS INTERVIEW THAT APPEARED IN LA PRENSA ON SEPTEMBER 2. THE MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

- (A) STATES THAT THE MANAGUA NEWS STORY "WAS COMPLETELY FALSE" AND WAS MADE UP BY PEOPLE FROM HONDURAS TO SLANDER HIM PERSONALLY;
- (B) EMPHASICES THAT HE IS PREPARED TO SUBMIT PROOF TO ANYONE WHO ASKS FOR IT THAT HE IS NOT ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL ACTS;
- (C) REMARKS THAT SAHSA IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT INCLUDES GENERAL LOPEZ AND OTHER HONDURAN BUSINESSMEN;
- (D) STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN FAVOR OF SAHSA ACQUIRING TAN SHARES BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE A CHANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT TO MORE HONDURANS; AND
- (E) COMMENTS THAT HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HONEST IN HIS DEALINGS.

SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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